

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF

SUBJECT: SENATOR MCCLURE VISIT TO KUWAIT

THE FOLLOWINT TEL FROM KUWAIT DATED NOV 29, 1973

TO SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN BEIRUT DHAHRAN JIDDA

AND TEL AVIV IS REPTED:

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4158

DEPT PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, ENRG, KU, XF

SUBJECT: SENATOR MCCLURE VISIT TO KUWAIT

SUMMARY: DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE SENATOR MCCLURE MET WITH
ACTING AMIR AND WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIALS, OIL COMPANY REPS AND
OTPARS. HE WANTED TO DISCUSS ENERGY AND MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL
ISSUES. KUWAITIS RECEIVED HIM WARMLY AND WERE GRATIFIED BY HIS
SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB VIEWS ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST
ISSUES. THEY EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL AND
FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH US BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IMPROVEMENT
ON ARAB-ISRAEL QQUESTIONS WERE REQUIRED FIRST AND SPECIFICALLY
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SOME TANGIBLE ISRAELI CONCESSION MUST BE MADE BEFORE OIL EM-

BARGO/PRODUCTION CUTS CAN BE EASED. SENATOR MCCLURE
URGED PATIENCE ON ARAB-ISRAEL QUESTIONS AND ADVISED CAUTION
ON USE OF OIL WEAPON LEST IT TRIGGER UNFORTUNATE BACKLASH.
END SUMMARY

1. DURING BUSY THREE DAY VISIT HERE NOVEMBER 25-27 SENATOR MCCLURE
(R-IDAHO) MET WITH ACTING AMIR/CROWN PRINCE, ACTING PRIME MINISTER
MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND WIDE VARIETY LOCAL OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN
AND POLITICIANS INCLUDING NEW OAPEC SECRETARY
GENERAL. TALKS FOCUSED ON ARAB-ISRAELISSUES, US ENERGY CRISIS-
ARAB OIL EMBARGO AND US-ARAB ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS.

2.SENATOR MCCLURE TOLD PRESS HIS REASONS FOR VISITING MIDDLE
EAST WERE TO LEARN DIRECTLY FROM LOCAL LEADERS THEIR VIEWS
AND FEELINGS REGARDING AREA STABILITY AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS;
TO EXPLAIN HIS OWN VIEWS REGARDING AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD
MIDDLE EAST AND TO GAIN FIRST HAND LOOK AT AREA PROBLEMS
SO THAT HIS OWN CREDIBILITY IN SENATE WOULD BE ENHANCED WHEN
HE SPOKE ON MIDDLE EAST AND ENERGY MATTERS.

3. SENATOR MCCLURE CONVEYED HIS PERSONAL SYMPATHY WITH ARAB
VIEWS AND SAID HE THINKS THERE GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB
POSITION. HE SAID OIL WEAPON WAS EFFECTIVE MEASURE BUT HE
FEARED BACKLASH AS CERTAIN REGIONS OF US FACE ECONOMIC DISLO-
CATION. ARABS SHOULD NOT CARRY OIL EMBARGO TOO FAR, HE ASSERTED.
SENATOR STRESSED FRIENDSHIP AND URGED ARABS TO BE PATIENT, EX-
PLAINING THAT IT IS ONLY RECENTLY THAT PUBLIC AT LARGE HAS
FOCUSED ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WAS HOPEFUL RECENT
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WOULD RESULT IN FORWARD MOVEMENT ON ARAB-
ISRAEL ISSUES.

4. KUWAITIS CLEARLY WELCOMED SENATOR MCCLURE'S VISIT AND WERE
DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT A US SENATOR COULD BE AS UNDERSTANDING
OF THEIR CAUSE AS HE IS. THEY REITERATED THEIR BASIC FRIENDSHIP
AND MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS BETWEEN ARABS IN GENERAL AND KUWAIT
IN PARTICULAR FOR US. BUT THEY SAID IT BECOMING INCREASINGLY
DIFFICULT FOR FRIENDLY ARABS TO EXPLAIN OR ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY
US ACTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST. THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT OIL EMBARGO
WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL SOME FAVORABLE CONCESSION IS MADE
BY ISRAEL. IN THIS CONNECTION, FAILURE OF ISRAEL EVEN TO
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RETURN TO OCTOBER 22 CEASE-FIRE LINE HAS INTENSIFIED ALREADY
DEEP SKEPTICISM ERE OF ISRAEL'S INTEREST IN WORKING OUT
PEACEFUL SOLUTION. EVERYONE WITH WHOM SENATOR
SPOKE INDICATED
THAT ISRAEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE WAS NOW RECOGNIZED BY ARABS,
ALTHOUGH SOME EXPRESSED OPINION THAT JEWISH STATE WHICH DENIED
ARABS ANY RIGHTS COULD NOT CONTINUE EXIST IN REGION IN LONG RUN.

5. COMMENT: SENATOR MCCLURE IS FIRST HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL FROM US TO VISIT KUWAIT SINCE OCTOBER WAR. LOCAL REACTION WAS VERY FAVORABLE AND RECEPTION WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY. KUWAITIS HE MET WERE FRANK AND TO THE POINT. THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT FRIENDLY AND FRUITFUL RELATIONS WERE DESIRED BUT SOME IMPROVEMENT IN ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION HAS TO COME BEFORE NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE RESUMED. STOLTZFUS

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